



LIVE FROM THE MADISON OPERA CENTER
AN EVENING OF HOLIDAY CHEER

Will Liverman, baritone
Suzanne Beia, violin
Scott Gendel, piano

December 19, 2020

SPONSORED BY

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ATTORNEYS



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THE PROGRAM

“The Christmas Song”	Roberts Wells and Mel Tormé (1945)
“Thus Saith the Lord / But Who May Abide” from <i>Messiah</i>	George Frideric Handel (1741)
“Gesù Bambino”	Pietro Yon (1917)
<i>Songs of Travel:</i> “Let Beauty Awake” “Youth and Love” “Whither Must I Wander” “Bright is the Ring of Words”	Ralph Vaughn Williams (1904)
“Winter” from <i>The Four Seasons</i>	Antonio Vivaldi (1725)
“Cantique de Noël”	Adolphe Adam (1847)
“The Man with the Bag”	Dudley Brooks, Irving Taylor, Harold Stanley (1950)
“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”	Walter Kent, Kim Gannon, Buck Ram (1943)
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	arranged by Will Liverman
“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”	Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane (1943)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Will Liverman, baritone



Called “one of the most versatile singing artists performing today” (*Bachtrack*), baritone Will Liverman continues to bring his compelling performances to audiences nationwide. He will star in the Metropolitan Opera’s re-opening production of Terence Blanchard’s *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* in fall 2021, in addition to reprising his roles as Horemhab in *Akhmaten* and Papageno in *The Magic Flute* in the Met’s 2021-22 season.

A native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Mr. Liverman debuted with Madison Opera as Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* in 2015, then returned as Dizzy Gillespie in *Charlie Parker’s Yardbird* in 2017 and for Opera in the Park 2017.

This season, Mr. Liverman gave a solo recital at the Kennedy Center and made his Chicago Opera Theater debut in *Rimsky Rebooted*. He will sing the role of Bob in *Highway 1 U.S.A* for Opera Theatre of St. Louis and will curate the company’s Juneteenth Concert with soprano Nicole Cabell. His new opera, *The Factotum*, written together with DJ/recording artist K. Rico, is being developed in partnership with Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Ryan Opera Center this season.

He is the recipient of the 2020 Marian Anderson Vocal Award and recently received a 2019 Richard Tucker Career Grant and Sphinx Medal of Excellence. His recent engagements include the Met’s holiday production of *The Magic Flute*, its premiere of Glass’ *Akhmaten*, and Malcolm Fleet in Muhly’s *Marnie*. He also recently appeared as Pantalone in *The Love of Three Oranges* at Opera Philadelphia, as Silvio in *Pagliacci* at Opera Colorado, as Schaunard in *La Bohème* with Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, and Opera Philadelphia; and as The Pilot in *The Little Prince* with Tulsa Opera.

Mr. Liverman has performed Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* with Seattle Opera, Virginia Opera, Kentucky Opera, and Utah Opera. He originated the role of Dizzy Gillespie in *Charlie Parker’s Yardbird* with Opera Philadelphia, in addition to performing the role with English National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and at the Apollo Theater. Other highlights include Tommy McIntyre in *Fellow Travelers* with Lyric of Opera of Chicago’s Lyric Unlimited; Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with Florentine Opera and Central City Opera; his role debut as Marcello in *La Bohème* with Portland Opera; Raimbaud in *Le Comte Ory* with Seattle Opera; Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Beaumarchais in *The Ghosts of Versailles* with Wolf Trap Opera; Andrew Hanley in the world premiere of Puts’ *The Manchurian Candidate* with Minnesota Opera; Sam in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Atlanta Opera; and the Foreman at the Mill in *Jenůfa* and the Protestant Minister in *The Last Savage* with Santa Fe Opera.

Expanding into the concert repertoire, Mr. Liverman sang the title role in a concert version of *Porgy and Bess* with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, and was a featured soloist in Brahms’ *Requiem* with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Seattle Symphony, *Carmina Burana* with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and Mozart’s *Mass in C Minor* with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He was recently featured in the Sphinx Virtuosi concert at Carnegie Hall and appeared in Schubert’s *Die Winterreise* at The Barns at Wolf Trap Opera.

Mr. Liverman was a member of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago until 2015 and was previously a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival. He holds his Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from Wheaton College in Illinois.

Suzanne Beia, violin



Violinist Suzanne Beia has been the second violinist in the Pro Arte Quartet since 1995. She also serves as Concertmaster of the Madison Opera, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and Co-Concertmaster of the Madison Symphony.

A native of Reno, Nevada, she began her musical studies on the viola at the age of ten. Three years later, she shifted her attention to the violin and made her solo debut at the age of fourteen with the North Lake Tahoe Symphony. Since that time, she has performed on numerous occasions as a soloist with orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. Before coming to Madison, Ms. Beia held the position of Principal Second Violin in the Wichita Symphony. She has held concertmaster positions with the Reno Chamber Orchestra, Bay Area Women's Philharmonic, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and Chamber Symphony of San Francisco. She also held the Assistant Concertmaster position in the New World Symphony.

Her chamber music experience has been extensive, having performed in numerous festivals including Chamber Music West, Telluride Chamber Music Festival, Festival de Prades, and Chamber Music at the Barn. Ms. Beia has served on the faculties of the Rocky Ridge Music Center and Florida International University. She is a founding member of the Rhapsodie Quartet of the HeartStrings Community Engagement Program of the Madison Symphony, with which she has performed since 2007. Her major teachers have included Theodore Madsen, Roy Malan, Jorja Fleezanis and David Perry.

Scott Gendel, piano



Scott Gendel is a composer, vocal coach, pianist, rock musician, theatrical music director, singer, keyboardist, composition teacher, and general musical polymath living here in Wisconsin. As a composer, his music has a wide-ranging scope, but he is particularly obsessed with the artistry of the human voice in all its forms, including opera, art song, choral music, musical theatre, pop songs, experimental music, and more. His music has been recorded by artists including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, soprano Julia Faulkner, and the Santa Clara Chorale & San Jose Chamber Orchestra. Recently Mr. Gendel's opera *Super Storm!* was performed by Opera For The Young in nearly 200 elementary schools around the Midwest, and a recording of his song cycle *To Keep The Dark Away* was released on Navona Records.

As a collaborative pianist and keyboard player, Mr. Gendel is the official pianist and principal vocal coach for Madison Opera. He also appears frequently in vocal and instrumental recitals around the country, plays in four different hard-to-categorize rock & electronic bands, coaches professional opera singers regularly, and has worked as a coach & pianist for companies including Atlanta Opera and Opera North. His current projects include a large-scale choral work for the Madison Choral Project based on a story from NPR's "StoryCorps" and a concept album on the Cassandra myth, blending experimental pop songs with choral music, as part of The Parlour Trick. Please visit <http://www.scottgendel.com> for more information.

MADISON OPERA

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Director of Production
Technical Director and Warehouse Coordinator
Production Stage Manager
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AUDIO FOR THE ARTS

Buzz Kemper
Noah Gilfillan

Technical Producer
Audio Engineer

SPECIAL THANKS

John Penisten
Overture Center for the Arts
Madison Symphony Orchestra

Song Texts

The Christmas Song

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Jack Frost nipping at your nose.
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir,
and folks dressed up like Eskimos.

Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
help to make the season bright.
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
will find it hard to sleep tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way.
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh.
And every mother's child is gonna spy
to see if reindeer really know how to fly.

And so I'm offering this simple phrase,
to kids from one to ninety-two:
Although it's been said many times, many ways,
Merry Christmas to you.

Thus Saith the Lord / But Who May Abide

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts:
"Yet once a little while
and I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land;
and I will shake all nations;
and the desire of all nations shall come."

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple,
even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in.
Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

Let Beauty Awake

Let Beauty awake in the morn from beautiful dreams,
beauty awake from rest.
Let Beauty awake for Beauty's sake
in the hour when the birds awake in the brake
and the stars are bright in the west.

Let Beauty awake in the eve from the slumber of day,
awake in the crimson eve.
In the day's dusk end when the shades ascend,
let her wake to the kiss of a tender friend,
to render again and receive.

Youth and Love

To the heart of youth, the world is a highwyside.
Passing forever, he fares; and on either hand,
deep in the gardens golden pavilions hide, nestle in orchard bloom,
and far on the level land call him with lighted lamp in the eventide.

Thick as stars at night when the moon is down, pleasures assail him.
He to his nobler fate fares; and but waves a hand as he passes on.
Cries but a wayside word to her at the garden gate.
Sings but a boyish stave and his face is gone.

Whither Must I Wander

Home no more home to me, whither must I wander?
Hunger my driver, I go where I must.
Cold blows the winter wind over hill and heather.
Thick drives the rain and my roof is in the dust.
Loved of wise men was the shade of my roof-tree,
the true word of welcome was spoken in the door.
Dear days of old with the faces in the firelight.
Kind folks of old, you come again no more.

Home was home then, my dear, full of kindly faces.
Home was home then, my dear, happy for the child.
Fire and the windows bright glittered on the moorland.
Song, tuneful song, built a palace in the wild.
Now when day dawns on the brow of the moorland,
lone stands the house, and the chimney-stone is cold.
Lone let it stand, now the friends are all departed,
the kind hearts, the true hearts, that loved the place of old.

Spring shall come, come again, calling up the moorfowl.
Spring shall bring the sun and rain, bring the bees and flowers.
Red shall the heather bloom over hill and valley,
soft flow the stream through the even-flowing hours.
Fair the day shine as it shone on my childhood;
fair shine the day on the house with open door.
Birds come and cry there and twitter in the chimney,
but I go for ever and come again no more.

Bright is the Ring of Words

Bright is the ring of words when the right man rings them.
Fair the fall of songs when the singer sings them.
Still they are caroled and said, on wings they are carried,
after the singer is dead and the maker buried.

Low as the singer lies in the field of heather,
songs of his fashion bring the swains together.
And when the west is red with the sunset embers,
the lover lingers and sings and the maid remembers.

Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
and in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever;
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

The Man with the Bag

Old Mr. Kringle is soon gonna jingle,
the bells that'll tingle all your troubles away.
Everybody's waiting for the man with the bag.
Christmas is here again!

He's got a sleigh full, it's not gonna stay full,
stuff that he's dropping every stop of the way.
Everybody's waiting for the man with the bag.
Christmas is here again!

He'll be here with the answer to the prayers
that you made through the year.
You'll get yours if you've done everything
you should extra special good.

He'll make this December the one to remember,
the best and the merriest you ever did have.
Everybody's waiting for the man with the bag.
Christmas is here again!

I'll Be Home For Christmas

I'll be home for Christmas, you can plan on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree.
Christmas Eve will find me where the love light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.

I'm dreaming tonight of a place I love, even more than I usually do.
And although I know it's a long road back, I promise you:

I'll be home for Christmas, you can plan on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree.
Christmas Eve will find me where the love light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore him: Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore him: Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him: Christ, the Lord.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.
Let your heart be light.
From now on our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.
Make the yuletide gay.
From now on our troubles will be miles away.

Here we are as in olden days, happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us, gather near to us once more.

Someday soon, we all will be together, if the fates allow.
Until then, we'll have to muddle through somehow.
So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
Written by: Walter Kent, Kim Gannon & Buck Ram
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